



# Committee on Homeland Security Democrats

## Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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### CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON ADDRESSES SECRETARY CHERTOFF

**April 13, 2005, Washington, DC** — The Committee on Homeland Security today held a hearing to focus on the department's approach on using risk analysis to prioritize homeland security operations and to evaluate their managing efforts.

Michael Chertoff, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security testified before the committee on the need to reassess and readjust the priorities and policies of the Department. He also discussed the 60 day organizational review he has implemented and reported on what changes the Department will experience under his leadership. Secretary Chertoff also expressed the need to implement a risk-based approach of threat, vulnerability, and consequence as a general model for assessing risk.

Congressman, Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security said, **"Although we have come along way since 9/11, you are inheriting a Department of Homeland Security that has lost valuable time in the last few years by failing to do what it really takes to make our country safer, protect our economy, and ensure that every first responder has a minimum level of preparedness."**

The Department's past failure to handle risk analysis questions whether the department is capable of handling this issue for future matters. **"My district in Mississippi is rural, it has levees along the Mississippi river and a nuclear power plant. Attacks on any of these could cause thousands of people to die and cause millions of dollars in damage hundreds of miles away. These factors must be included in your risk calculations,"** said Thompson.

Congressman Thompson also took the opportunity to focus on other matters the Department has neglected to address, such as the Department failing to complete security plans in a timely manner, and the several missed deadline reports the Department has failed to turn in to congress.

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